

SECRET

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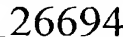
[] is attached hereto.

[X] was filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty on December 12, 2001 Serial No. PCT/EP01/15297, the United States of America being designated.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the Patent and Trademark Office all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, 119 of any foreign application(s) for patent, utility model, design or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application(s) for patent, utility model, design or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application(s) on which priority is claimed:

I hereby appoint the attorneys and agents of VENABLE associated with the following customer number to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:



PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

The undersigned hereby authorizes the U.S. attorneys identified herein to accept and follow instructions from the undersigned's assignee, if any, and/or, if the undersigned is not a resident of the United States, the undersigned's domestic attorney, patent attorney or patent agent, as to any action to be taken in the Patent and Trademark Office regarding this application without direct communication between the U.S. attorneys and the undersigned. In the event of a change in the person(s) from whom instructions may be taken, the U.S. attorneys identified herein will be so notified by the undersigned.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

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